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OBITUARY.

SIR HENRY M. STANLEY.

The announcement of this distinguished explorer's death had not been anticipated by the general public, though his personal friends knew that, for several months, his health had been in a very precarious condition. The end came at his home in London on the morning of May 10th, in the 63d year of his age.

Stanley's great contributions to geographical discovery are too well known to require extended recapitulation. His expedition to Lake Tanganyika (1871-72) was of value chiefly in the fact that he found Livingstone, nursed him back to better health, and gave him the supplies he needed to continue his explorations. After Livingstone's death, in 1873, Stanley determined to take up the exploration of Africa where his great predecessor had left it. Entering the continent near Zanzibar on November 12, 1874, he crossed Africa to the mouth of the Congo in 999 days, having travelled over 7,000 miles. The east and west limits of the wholly virgin field which he brought to light on this memorable journey were as far apart as New York and Omaha, and the work he did in this vast territory has stood the test of rigid scrutiny better than that of most pioneer explorers excepting those who have enjoyed thorough preliminary training for scientific research. Some critics, who complained that his work did not reach the requisite standard as to scientific quality, forgot that the pioneer explorer who traces through a continent a new route thousands of miles in length and beset with dangers cannot sit down in some small area to exhaust its scientific aspects; and yet his work is just as necessary as that of the scientific specialist who follows him.

The largest geographical results of this journey were the map of Victoria Nyanza, the material for which was obtained by a boat journey around the coasts; and the discovery and mapping of the course of the Congo from Nyangwe to the Atlantic, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles. His map of the lake has been curtailed in the northeast, where he had covered with water a part of the country of Kavirondo; he also missed the southwestern prolongation of the lake, though he discovered it on his last expedition; and many coastal details were changed by later surveys. But the map, under the circumstances, was a very creditable product, has been most

useful in our atlases, and in many respects it is still the map of the lake. His map of the course of the Congo is, in the main, that of the present day, though Grenfell, in particular, has added a large amount of detail and corrected geographical positions, the improved mapping being apparent chiefly only on maps of considerable scale.

In 1879, less than two years after Stanley first crossed Africa, he returned to the Congo under the auspices of the International Association and began his five years of incessant toil in founding stations and acquiring treaty rights from over 400 native chiefs in the large region which later became the Congo Free State. His book, *The Congo and the Founding of its Free State*, in which he told the story of these years, contains a large amount of data on soils, plants, minerals, tribes, temperatures, commercial possibilities, and other aspects of the country, and it vastly added to our knowledge of the great basin. His mapping of the Aruwimi, Kwa, Mfimi, and some other tributaries of the Congo, of Lakes Leopold II and Matumba, and of many other geographic units still stand much as he represented them on his large map, though, as is usually the case, many details have been modified by later surveys.

His expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha (1886-89), one of the most thrilling journeys ever made, resulted, geographically, in the discovery of the extent of the great forest north of the Congo, the water connection between Albert Nyanza and Lake Albert Edward, the snow-capped Ruwenzori mountain chain between the two lakes, and the southwestern prolongation of Victoria Nyanza. This expedition, the results of which are recorded in his last book of exploration, *In Darkest Africa*, ended his active career in that continent.

His work gave a very large area in Equatorial Africa to the knowledge and enterprise of the world. His contributions to the literature of Africa were far more voluminous than those of any other explorer, his efficiency as an observer of man and of nature continuously grew, and his writings are still the most prominent sources of information on the regions treated. The fact is now generally recognized that Stanley, after Livingstone, gave greater impulse than any other man to the movement which resulted in the rapid exploration of most parts of unknown Africa, and in the division of its vast territory among the European Powers.